

# HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

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## HCA AGM ECOLOGY CENTRE



**HIGHBURY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM**  
 Saturday 23rd April 2022  
 Ecology Centre, Gillespie Park  
 By VALERIE ILES

The meeting dealt rapidly with normal AGM business, and moved onto discussion by members of issues of local interest.

### LTNs

Concern was expressed about

- the lack of proper consultation prior to implementation
- the rise in air pollution on all roads (especially the Blackstock Road)
- the degree of division being caused by the issue
- the negative impact on bus services on boundary roads.

However, there was general agreement that with some changes, LTNs could achieve their aims and difficulties be overcome.

### Highbury Corner

- Highbury Corner was designed (according to TfL) for the lower traffic volumes using it before the LTNs were introduced, but it is now overwhelmed.
- It was suggested that modification back to a roundabout would address many of the concerns about the LTNs which immediately surround Highbury Corner.
- The way cyclists are using Highbury Corner was also raised.
- These concerns will be further explored and taken up with councillors.

### Highbury Fields

- *The Boer War memorial:* the ornamental grasses in this enclosure were reported to be overwhelming the crocus and bluebells. It was agreed that the council would be contacted, and that volunteers would be sought to provide any necessary labour.
- *Verges around Highbury Fields:* members reported that these are 'in a terrible state', all of the corners 'bald' and litter a recurring problem. This, too, would be reported to the Council.
- *BBQs.* The committee was asked to submit views opposing BBQs to the Council.

# HCA AGM Ecology Centre

Continued from page 1...

## Guest speaker

Gill Shepherd introduced **Hamish McRae**, a fellow Islington resident. Hamish writes columns about economics and finance in publications across the political spectrum.

He is the author of the book 'The World in 2020' written 25 years ago, and has just finalised the sequel 'The World in 2050', in each case thinking one generation ahead. Whereas forward thinking about national economies in the 1990s focused on the 'BRICs' (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), by 2050 Hamish sees China well in the lead with India in third place behind the US.

He is optimistic that there will be fewer people in poverty, and an overall rise in living standards, but less sanguine about the burden these will place on the planet, seeing the US, China, Europe and India as the key deciders of this.

## For him, the critical forces for change will be:

- Demography: changing birth rates and life expectancy leading to 10 billion by 2100 with India, China and Africa expanding more rapidly than Europe
- Trade: will globalisation peak? What will be the impact of new forms of money?
- Environment: impacts on the availability and use of resources
- Technology: (both benign and malign) communications, AI, big data
- Governance; challenges to democracy and market capitalism, arising from societal change

## Applying these forces for change to the world as it is now, his hopeful predictions would be that:

- The US will become more comfortable with itself and remain a magnet for talent.
- Britain and Ireland will have a bumpy ride for a decade but gradually develop calmer relations between UK nations and the anglosphere.
- Europe will be comfortable but unimportant and the EU a looser union, with a core and periphery, and perhaps eventually with Russia as an associate member ('we are naturally economic partners').
- China will become calmer as it becomes older – more like Japan.
- Africa is less predictable but will be more or less OK.

## Conversely, his main fears are that:

- The US doesn't make the transition to a multiracial society
- China/US relations deteriorate over the next ten years
- Russia continues to overplay its hand
- Sub-Saharan Africa fails to escape from poverty
- Religious conflict increases
- Environmental degradation continues and becomes irreversible
- Pandemics recur
- The Middle East grows increasingly unstable
- The information revolution becomes malign
- We lose democracy

After a lively Q and A Hamish expressed his regard for Hans Rosling (whose book, 'Factfulness', he highly recommends), and nominated his three environmental heroes as: Nicholas Stern; Greta Thunberg; and Elon Musk.

The meeting then broke for drinks and food and wound up at 10.00



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# Suggesting Improvements to the Highbury West-Highbury Fields LTN

By GILL SHEPHERD

The Consultation period for the Highbury West-Highbury Fields LTN has been extended to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Anyone can write to the council before that date with new or reiterated suggestions. The people to write to are: [public.realm@islington.gov.uk](mailto:public.realm@islington.gov.uk) - Cc: [peoplefriendlystreets@islington.gov.uk](mailto:peoplefriendlystreets@islington.gov.uk); [Rowena.Champion@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Rowena.Champion@islington.gov.uk); [Roulin.Khondoker@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Roulin.Khondoker@islington.gov.uk); [Bashir.Ibrahim@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Bashir.Ibrahim@islington.gov.uk); [Fin.Craig@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Fin.Craig@islington.gov.uk); [Caroline.Russell@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Russell@islington.gov.uk); [Benali.Hamdache@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Benali.Hamdache@islington.gov.uk); [Ernestas.Jegorovas-Armstrong@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Ernestas.Jegorovas-Armstrong@islington.gov.uk)

## INTRODUCTION

### Problems stemming from the size of the Highbury West-Highbury Fields LTN

The Highbury West-Highbury Fields LTN is the largest LTN in London. This means that carers, delivery personnel, tradesmen, and on occasion residents needing to get from one side to the other of the LTN in a vehicle, must make an extended journey via Finsbury Park or Highbury Corner. These journeys add to traffic volumes and congestion on the existing boundary roads.

Not only are the two back-to-back LTNs in Highbury butted up against Highbury Corner to the south, but they are flanked by railway lines all along the western side, limiting everyone's movements severely. There are only three crossing points over or under these railway lines - Highbury Corner, Drayton Park and Finsbury Park. By taking Drayton Park out of the equation, you have more or less guaranteed the extra congestion we see on our boundary roads.

Volumes of vehicles on the Holloway Road and the Seven Sisters Road can be problematic, but by far the largest congestion problems are to be found on the Blackstock Road and on down through Highbury Grove to the junction with St Paul's Road. These cause serious delays to buses and, at times, long lines of idling vehicles outside the schools all along the road.

The Council has asked us to suggest improvements to our LTN. Here is a major one. Please consider it. Our two-step solution solves many of the current problems, and would remove most of the objections to the Highbury LTNs.

### 1. Two smaller LTNs instead of one enormous one, by creating a new boundary road between them

It is suggested that Highbury West-Highbury Fields LTN be separated out into two smaller LTNs, and that a boundary be created between them by removing the camera filter on Aubert Park and turning the section of Drayton Park up to the junction with Aubert Park, and Aubert Park itself, into the boundary road between the two LTNs.

No other cameras in either of the two newly separated LTNs would need to be removed, but Avenell Road and Aubert Road would need cameras or other filters to protect them against cut-through traffic at their junctions with Aubert Park.

A more direct route linking the Holloway Road and Blackstock Road/Highbury Park/would relieve much of the congestion that currently piles up on the Blackstock Road and on the roads leading into the Highbury Corner junction. And Drayton Park and Aubert Park are wide roads which can accommodate more vehicles than they currently do.

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# Suggesting Improvements to the Highbury West-Highbury Fields LTN

Continued from page 3...

The Aubert Park camera is already frequently disabled already, when Arsenal football matches take place.

## 2. Improving the Drayton Park – Holloway Road junction as part of the process

As part of changes to separate the current LTN into two smaller LTNs, this would also be a good moment to implement long-mooted changes at

the Holloway Road/Drayton Park junction. Vehicles would be able to turn left into the Holloway Road or to go straight over into Palmer Place, but right turns would no longer be allowed. (See map below).

Drivers needing to proceed northwards on the Holloway Road would be able to do so by crossing into Palmer Place, and turning right at the lights onto the Liverpool Road. They would then be able to proceed

northwards by turning left where the Liverpool Road joins the Holloway Road. These changes would prevent tailbacks from the Drayton Park/Holloway Road junction backing up into Drayton Park itself.

## 3. Conclusion

This simple pair of innovations would solve many of the problems currently being complained of in the Highbury West-Highbury Fields LTN area. I look forward to hearing your response.



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# 'The Centre for London' research on local elections and voter priorities

By SARAH POTTER

The thinktank The Centre for London recently released the results of a poll of 1547 Londoners, part of its London Intelligence series of snapshots of the city's people. This poll was carried out between 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March, and focused on people's priorities in this May's Council Elections.

The top three priorities for over 30% of the sample, emerged as the level of Council Tax, national issues and the quality of local social care. The cleanliness of the local area, the quality of local schools, and the state of roads, pavements and street lighting were the top 3 priorities for about 25%.

Further down the list came refuse and recycling (25%), the quality of parks and open spaces (18%), the quality of the local high street (16%), and restrictions on the use of cars and the promotion of cycling (12%).

Local voters should be relieved at Islington Council's relatively limited rise in Council Tax this year given that this is a top voter priority, but it needs to be noted that another top priority, the quality of social care, does not seem to have made it into the debates at our local elections at all.

From a London-wide perspective, restrictions on car use and promotion of cycling were a very low voter priority, while in Islington these LTN policies have caused considerable controversy. Nor was the increase in green space promised by Labour

candidates in Islington a top voter priority from the London wide perspective, though it is more understandable in Islington where green space is so limited.

The Centre for London's data also showed the extent to which Londoners have been affected by the rise in the cost of living, so that Labour promises on affordable council homes, continuation of free school meals in primary schools, and help into good jobs and apprenticeships meet very evident needs.

London as a whole has experienced relatively high unemployment as we have emerged from the pandemic: it is, perhaps surprisingly, the third most affected region in the country in this respect.

## Stoke Newington Early Music Festival Friday June 24th - Saturday July 9th 2022

By RACHEL STOTT



This year's **Stoke Newington Early Music Festival** opens on 24<sup>th</sup> June with a tribute concert for Philip Yeeles, the festival's director for many years, who sadly passed away in December 2021. The ensemble he

founded, '*Stokey Baroque*', will perform Handel, Telemann, Leclair and Albinoni.

SNEMF, now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, has a proud history of bringing the finest early music performers to a historic area of London. This year, under its new director Rachel Stott, a Highbury resident, this summer festival will run from Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> – Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup>.

In these challenging times for the travelling musician, it seems fitting to explore the theme of wandering minstrels. SNEMF 2022 traces the travels of musicians across Europe from the late Renaissance to the age of steam. Tenor David de Winter and the *Brook Street Band* explore Heinrich Schütz's encounter with Venetian virtuosity in *A German in Venice*, while *Irlandiani* reveal the influence of Irish traditional music on Italian baroque composers.

Perfect for a summer Sunday afternoon, the *Flaugissimo Duo* offer an innovative recital - *A Nightingale in the Garden* - in which French and British composers respond to the natural world. In the early evening, joined by soprano Anna Cavaliero, they present *A Swedish Virtuoso in London*: works by Johan Helmut Roman living alongside his fellow émigrés Handel and Barsanti.

For classical enthusiasts, *From Vienna to Madrid*, performed by the *Consone String Quartet*, presents Boccherini alongside Viennese masters Mozart and Schubert, and for those who love 19<sup>th</sup> century music, Jamie Akers' recital on the 9-string romantic guitar explores works by Austrian, Italian and Ukrainian composers who formed the *Guitar Circle of St Petersburg*.

Booking for festival events is available through TicketSource. Further details on the festival website: <https://stokenewingtonearlymusic.org.uk/>

# First steps towards a Circular Economy

## Linda Hall-Brunton

Interviewed by GILL SHEPHERD

Two new initiatives, one government led, and one a grassroots bottom-up movement, are likely to deliver great changes over the next 5 to 10 years and help to move society on towards greater commitments to a more circular economy.

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended. In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum. When a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible. These can be productively used again and again, thereby creating further value. This is a departure from the traditional, linear economic model, which is based on a take-make-consume-throw away pattern. This model relies on large quantities of cheap, easily accessible materials and energy.

### Extended producer responsibility for packaging

Following strong support, Government committed to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging. EPR will see the full cost of collecting household waste shift from the taxpayer to producers, in the hope of delivering a more circular economy for packaging where greater quantities of recyclable waste are reprocessed into valuable high-quality secondary resources.

Extended Producer Responsibility will be coming into force in 2023. Producers will have an increased financial incentive to use packaging

that is widely collected from householders for recycling, as well as to increase recycled content in packaging. The contributions businesses will be obligated to pay into the reformed system will increase or decrease depending on the recyclability of the packaging they place on the market. Those using difficult to recycle, not recycled or unrecyclable packaging, will see higher costs associated with complying with the reformed Packaging Waste Regulations.

### Refill schemes

Refill Schemes are powered by a group of organised individuals who lead the Refill Revolution in their local area. Customers at refill schemes take their own containers with them to the Station and can refill them again and again. Refill groups may be small, local community groups who want to reduce pollution locally, NGOs, councils, municipalities or even national governments. Whatever the size of a Refill scheme, they're all having an impact. Hundreds of Refill Stations have been put on the map worldwide, and are helping to stop millions of pieces of plastic from polluting the places we love.

Refill schemes also have justice at their heart. In Camden, where refill stations are becoming more common, the council is aware that in a supermarket, 85p in every pound goes to someone with no direct link to the food. Through refill schemes – and farmers markets – it is far more likely that 85p in the pound will go back to the community that produced the food or the product in the first place.

### Outcomes

So over the next few years, we can expect to see many more 'deposit and return' systems with businesses, and much more genuinely recyclable packaging. As refill stations become more mainstream (and some supermarkets such as ASDA already have a refill area) the amount of packaging that currently comes with food and household goods will go down too.

If both these initiatives take off and are upscaled at pace, the North London Waste Station, which generates energy from the rump remains of non recyclable waste, may yet find that it has overestimated the capacity needed in North London.




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# St Thomas the Apostle Jubilee Open Day

By DOROTHY NEWTON

On Saturday 4th June from 12 noon until 4pm in the church, in the parish rooms and gardens, and in the short section of Monsell Road outside the church, there will be an open day with food and a variety of activities.

**In the hall:** lunches and teas will be available for a donation (collection for our local foodbanks)

**In the church:** Stalls - e.g. second hand clothes, plants; local groups' information; Live music (piano, voice, youth band) from local musicians

**In Monsell Road:** a bouncy castle; Children's fancy dress competition; Children's games and activities; More stalls.

Come and meet your neighbours and make new friends!



# Highbury Hill Street Party



Would you be interested in a Highbury Hill Street Party for the Queen's Jubilee Celebration on the afternoon of Sunday 5th June?

A great opportunity to meet your neighbours and to bring and share food, drinks and friendship.

We have permission to shut the bottom part of Highbury Hill and have applied for a grant to spend on games or similar.

If you live in or near Highbury Hill and would like to take part, please let us know roughly how many adults and children will be in your family group. You can do this by adding yourself to the Highbury Hill Street Party What's App group by scanning the QR code here, by emailing:

[suejandy@gmail.com](mailto:suejandy@gmail.com) or you can put a note through the letter box at 179 Highbury Hill.

Thank you and we hope to see you on the 5th June.



# IEEA's proposed Next Steps after Islington Council's Special Scrutiny meeting on Net Zero Carbon by 2030



## NEXT STEPS

Islington Council has come a long way since the Climate Emergency was announced in June 2019 and it is clear the Councillors are committed to the Vision 2030 strategy for a net zero carbon Islington by 2030.

Islington Council held its third Special Scrutiny meeting on Net Zero Carbon (NZC) in March 2022. It had invited organisations from local businesses, housing associations, community and campaign groups to hear a progress update from relevant officers and Councillors.

The Zoom meeting had over 50 participants from the invited organisations. However, there was no discussion on Next Steps at the end of the meeting, so IEEA thought a summary of the next steps for the Council would be useful. These are as follows:

**1.** Develop a costed programme to deliver NZC by 2030 that provides the Council with adequate clarity for prioritising initiatives and allocating

resources, and accommodates different scenarios for government legislation and funding, including:

- Produce a Programme to 2030 showing the carbon reductions that must be targeted each year for each of the three main categories of emissions: Housing, Commercial & Industrial and Transport.
- Establish the cost for each sub-category of emission reduction in the Programme (e.g. council housing, housing association, private) and identify the potential financing and funding options for each sub- category.

**2.** Develop an Action Plan for each of the three main categories that delivers the emission reductions in the Programme (or informs why the Programme needs to be revised), and which establishes any barriers and dependencies to implementation and ideas on how to overcome them (e.g. for planning, through new Supplementary Planning Documents)<sup>1</sup>.

**3.** Strengthen the governance of the Net Zero Carbon programme by including external NZC experts and representatives from the key stakeholders in Housing, Commercial & Industrial and Transport.

**4.** Implement immediate actions that support the raising of awareness and building of momentum, including:

- Produce planning guidance to enable and encourage private house owners to improve energy efficiency and energy generation, particularly in conservation areas, where people need confidence that planning applications are not needed or are very likely to succeed.
- Lead an engagement with all relevant stakeholders to brainstorm how recycling rates can be increased to 50% by 2030, and in parallel how consumption and waste can be reduced. *[To establish a common understanding of the problem across the stakeholders and the potential technical solutions.]*
- Audit borough locations to determine their suitability for Action Plan purposes, particularly by performing the envisaged audit of stub roads (for use as pocket parks or cycle storage).

**5.** Harness the pro bono contributions offered by the organisations that attended the Special Scrutiny meeting to:

- Assist the Council with under-resourced items in the Action Plan
- Co-create the way forward on challenging aspects of NZC strategy and implementation.

<sup>1</sup> These Action Plans can draw on the six Climate Change Programme Action Plans just published by the London Councils



# IEEA's proposed Next Steps

Continued from page 8...

The Council could harness this assistance through meetings every 4 to 6 weeks with representatives from the organisations.

6. Use the activities involved in (1) to (5) above to significantly improve and broaden engagement and communication with stakeholders, and the community in general, to raise NZC awareness and build momentum and commitment - A key first step in this engagement is with the costed Programme to 2030, so it establishes a broad consensus on the priority activities, their ownership (90% of the required emission reductions are not owned by the Council), their timing and duration, and the associated indicative costs.



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# A tale of 200 trees in Finsbury Park

By Tom Graham and Clive Carter  
Co-Chairs, the Friends of Finsbury Park



The Friends met with Cllrs Hakata and Brabazon on 25th April in the park. They showed them how badly the removal had been done, with stumps still visible in the ground. Cllrs Hakata & Brabazon listened, challenged us, but acknowledged the issue. Later that day, on behalf of the council, Cllr Hakata issued an apology publicly, and committed to a reset on partnership in the parks. That is a positive step. Ultimately, we support any councillor who is trying to improve our green spaces.

Back in March, 20 volunteers planted 200 trees in Finsbury Park which had been donated by TCV (The Conservation Volunteers). In agreement with park staff, they were planted around the Richard Hope Play Space, where they were intended to give shade to a recessed area that lacks tree cover and gets overly warm.

In April, the 'Friends of Finsbury Park' heard informally that Parks HQ did not like the location because it infringed on event space for Wireless Festival. They proposed moving the trees inside the play area.

On 22 April (Earth Day, as it happens) Haringey Council officers ordered the trees to be ripped out of the ground, and this then took place only a few hours after an update meeting with 'Friends of Finsbury Park', which had suggested that no action would be taken without further consultation.

We continue to believe that the council needs to change its culture and incentives, but acknowledge that that takes time. We hope the new Haringey Chief Executive is able to give this focus, and that the imminent review of major events within the park will provide a basis on which to change those incentives. Likewise, the broader community needs to acknowledge that our parks cost money, and that funding will be required if we are to keep them to a good standard.

The plan is to meet with the Park Department and Councillors after the local election, and agree replanting, and better ways to plan work within our park. Whilst we are truly saddened about those 200 trees, this event has highlighted the strength of feeling across the borough, and will give council officers pause for thought the next time there is a 'green' decision to be made.



# Islington Folk Club – ‘From the fiercely traditional to the frankly eccentric.’

By ROGER TREVITT

Since its foundation in 1974, the Highbury Roundhouse has grown into a thriving non-profit, community-based organisation. We provide a safe and welcoming environment that encourages people, particularly those from disadvantaged and disaffected communities, to engage in activities that will enhance their self-esteem and encourage them to participate in community activities and events. We provide educational and recreational facilities for people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds that live or work in Highbury and the surrounding area. From pre-school to old age, there is something for everyone!

The organisation serves a large cross-section of the community, such as one-parent families, the elderly, people with disabilities and young people from different backgrounds and abilities. We host a Childminders' Group and weekly soft play sessions for young children. For the elderly, we have lunch and social clubs, one of which is for members of the Afro-Caribbean community. We also provide a home for various community groups and organise social and recreational events throughout the year.

Our organisation has particular expertise in working with children, young people and older adults, and focuses on delivering educational and recreational activities that will make a difference in their lives.

### Our new Community Centre

The construction of our new Community Centre, after many frustrating delays, is planned to be complete by the end of July 2022, and we will be opening soon afterwards. We are now taking bookings for our state-of-the-art rooms to hire, available from September 2022. Call now to book a private tour: **020 7359 5916**.



Originally founded in 1964 Islington Folk club has existed in various guises and at a variety of venues in the borough ever since. The latest incarnation can be found at 8pm each Thursday evening upstairs at the Brewhouse & Kitchen, Highbury Corner. First admission is £8 including £2 annual membership, thereafter entrance is £6 per session.

A typical evening will begin with some traditional English tunes from the Angel Band - a motley collection of individuals whose instruments may include: anglo-concertina, melodeon, spoons, guitar, mandolin and whatever.

For most evenings the main attraction will be two 35 minute sets from a guest performer, usually a professional musician, sometimes from beyond these shores. Songs from the floor will complete the night. These could be contemporary in style, self-written, traditional, Americana, music-hall, poetry, blues and anything beyond. Performances may be a capella or with whatever instrument is to hand.

Over the years our guests have included the likes of: Chris Wood, Martin Carthy, Bob Davenport, Frankie Armstrong, John Hegley, Wizz Jones, Tom Paley, Peta Webb etc. If these are not names in your household do feel free to consult Mr Google.

The club website at: <http://www.islingtonfolkclub.co.uk/ifc.html> has a comprehensive list of past performers, as well as the future programme.

A club is as good as its audience, and we do hope you might be tempted along – and who knows who might be sitting next to you? Some notables to have popped in over the years include: Ralph McTell, George Fenton and Bob Dylan – yes, really.

We'd love to see you there.



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